

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application Serial No. 10/759,129
Attorney Docket No. Q79438

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A coating apparatus for coating with coating liquid a surface of a strip-shaped body carried in a fixed direction, the apparatus comprising:
 - a primary bar extending along a width direction of a carrying plane, which is a carrying path of the strip-shaped body;
 - a secondary bar extending in parallel with the primary bar and disposed at a downstream side of the primary bar; and
 - a between-bars liquid reservoir disposed between the primary bar and the secondary bar for storing the coating liquid at a time of coating of the coating liquid, wherein coating conditions at the primary bar, which is supplied with the coating liquid by a coating liquid supply flow path, and the secondary bar are set so that the following condition is met,

$$W_2 < W_1 < 1.3 \times W_2 \quad W_2 < W_4$$

where W_1 is a coating amount of the coating liquid that is deposited on the strip-shaped body at the primary bar and W_2 is a coating amount of the coating liquid that is deposited on the strip-shaped body after the strip-shaped body has passed the secondary bar.

2. (canceled).

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3. (currently amended) A coating apparatus according to ~~claim 2~~claim 1, wherein the primary bar is a wire bar formed by winding a wire around a rod, and the coating amount of the coating liquid at the primary bar is set so that the following expression

$$W_1 = 17.4365 \times r(2.167\eta + 0.289K)/L$$

is met by W_1 , a diameter r (mm) of the wire, a number of rotations K (rpm) of the primary bar, viscosity η (cps) of the coating liquid, and a carrying speed L (m/min) of the strip-shaped body.

4. (currently amended): A coating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an air-liquid interface forming portion, which is provided at the between-bars liquid reservoir, for forming an air-liquid interface at a time of coating, which wherein the air-liquid interface that is formed by the air-liquid interface forming portion is an interface between the coating liquid and air, at the between-bars liquid reservoir at a time of coating.

5. (original): A coating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the air-liquid interface forming portion includes a coating liquid sucking out portion for sucking out the coating liquid stored in the between-bars liquid reservoir.

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6. (currently amended): A coating apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the coating liquid supply flow path includes a primary coating liquid supply flow path for supplying the coating liquid, which is formed at an upstream side of the primary bar, and the coating liquid sucking out portion is a communicating flow path for allowing communication between the between-bars liquid reservoir and the primary coating liquid supply flow path.

7. (original) A coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the strip-shaped body is a support web for forming a base material of a planographic printing plate precursor, and the coating liquid is a plate-making layer forming liquid for forming a plate-making layer of the planographic printing plate precursor.

8. (withdrawn - currently amended) A coating method for coating with coating liquid a surface of a strip-shaped body carried in a fixed direction, the method comprising:

coating the surface of the strip-shaped body with the coating liquid at a primary bar, the primary bar extending along a width direction of a carrying plane, which is a carrying path of the strip-shaped body;

storing the coating liquid in a between-bars liquid reservoir that is disposed at a downstream side of the primary bar and located between the primary bar and a secondary bar, the secondary bar extending in parallel with the primary bar; and

regulating a coating amount of the coating liquid at the secondary bar,

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wherein coating conditions at the primary bar and the secondary bar are set so that the following condition is met,

$$\underline{W_2 < W_1 < 1.3 \times W_2} \quad W_2 < W_1$$

where W_1 is a coating amount of the coating liquid at the primary bar and W_2 is a coating amount of the coating liquid after the strip-shaped body has passed the secondary bar.

9-20. (canceled).

21. (new): A coating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a backup member supporting the primary bar and the secondary bar from below,

wherein the between-bars liquid reservoir is formed as a space defined by the primary bar, the secondary bar, and the backup member.

22. (new): A method according to claim 8, wherein a backup member supports the primary bar and the secondary bar from below,

wherein the between-bars liquid reservoir is formed as a space defined by the primary bar, the secondary bar, and the backup member.